

FACT SHEET

PROPOSED RULE TO REDUCE AIR TOXICS EMISSIONS FROM AREA SOURCE ALUMINUM, COPPER, AND OTHER NONFERROUS FOUNDRIES

ACTION

- On January 15, 2009, the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) proposed air toxics standards for smaller emitting aluminum foundries, copper foundries, and other nonferrous foundries. Smaller emitting facilities are called area sources.
- Area sources do not emit or have the potential to emit more than 10 tons per year of a single toxic air pollutant or more than 25 tons per year of any combination of toxic air pollutants.
- The proposed rule would cover emissions of a number of toxic air pollutants such as beryllium, cadmium, chromium, lead, manganese, and nickel, which are known or suspected to cause cancer, other serious health problems and environmental damage.
- All foundries that are subject to the rule would be required to operate according to a written management plan. This plan would include procedures for covering or enclosing melting furnaces during the melting process. Foundries also must purchase scrap according to written material specifications or use only clean charge materials in melting operations.
- Copper and other nonferrous foundries that melt 6,000 tons of metal per year or greater would be required to comply with an emission limit of 0.015 grains per dry standard cubic foot (gr/dscf) of particulate matter (PM) for existing melting operations, or 0.010 gr/dscf of PM for new melting operations. An alternative compliance option would allow these foundries to route PM emissions from the melting furnace through a PM control device that achieves a control efficiency of least 95 percent for existing melting operations or 99 percent for new melting operations.
- Aluminum foundries that are subject to the rule are not required to comply with either an emission limit for melting operations, or with the alternative compliance option because of the high cost of a PM control device and the low cost effectiveness for only a marginal reduction in air toxics emissions from melting operations.
- Existing area sources that would be affected by the rule are generally well controlled as a result of State permitting requirements, OSHA regulations (particularly for lead) and efficiency improvements. The only burden on the industry associated with the proposed rule is related to record keeping and reporting requirements necessary for compliance.

- Most facilities in these source categories are small businesses. EPA estimates that the proposed rule would apply to approximately 318 out of an estimated total of 962 area source aluminum, copper, and other nonferrous foundries. The proposed rule would have a total annualized cost of \$645,000/yr, with no significant adverse economic impacts on any foundry.
- EPA will take public comment on the proposed rule for 30 days following publication in the *Federal Register*.

BACKGROUND

- The Clean Air Act requires EPA to identify categories of industrial sources that emit one or more listed 187 toxic air pollutants. These industrial categories include both major and area sources.
- The Clean Air Act requires EPA to identify the toxic air pollutants that pose a health threat in the largest number of urban areas and to regulate sufficient area source categories to ensure that the emissions of these “urban” air toxics are reduced. EPA implements these requirements through the Integrated Urban Air Toxics Strategy.
- Each of the source categories included in today’s proposed rule are included on the area source category list.
- For area sources within each source category, the Clean Air Act allows EPA to develop standards or requirements which provide for the use of generally available control technologies (GACT) or management practices rather than the maximum achievable control technology (MACT) required for major sources.
- The proposed air toxics rule is being developed in response to the requirements in section 112(k) of the Clean Air Act and is being issued at this time in response to a court order that directs EPA to issue final rules for area sources every six months.

HOW TO COMMENT

- EPA will accept comment on the proposal for 30 days after publication in the Federal Register. Comments, identified by Docket ID No. EPA-HQ-OAR-EPA-HQ-OAR-2008-0236, may be submitted by one of the following methods:
 - www.regulations.gov: follow the on-line instructions for submitting comments.

- E-mail: Comments may be sent by electronic mail (e-mail) to a-and-r-Docket@epa.gov.
- Fax: Fax your comments to: 202-566-1741
- Mail: Send your comments to: Air and Radiation Docket and Information Center, Environmental Protection Agency, Mail Code: 2822T, 1200 Pennsylvania Ave., NW, Washington, DC, 20460.
- Hand Delivery or Courier: Deliver your comments to: EPA Docket Center, Room 3334, 1301 Constitution Ave., NW, Washington, DC, 20460. Such deliveries are only accepted during the Docket's normal hours of operation, and special arrangements should be made for deliveries of boxed information.

FOR MORE INFORMATION

- To download a copy the proposed rule, go to EPA's Worldwide Web site at <http://www.epa.gov/ttn/oarpg/t3pfpr.html>.
- For further information about the proposed rule for aluminum foundries, contact Mr. David Cole of EPA's Office of Air Quality Planning and Standards at (919) 541-5565 or Cole.David@epa.gov. For further information about the proposed rule for copper foundries and other nonferrous foundries, contact Mr. Gary Blais of EPA's Office of Air Quality Planning and Standards at (919) 541-3223 or Blais.Gary@epa.gov.